

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 24, 2013 Meeting

The State Board of Education met at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School in Merrimack, NH. Marjorie Chiafery, Superintendent of Schools, for SAU #26, Merrimack School District, welcomed the Board to the school and said she was pleased to host this Board meeting. At 9:00 a.m. the pledge of allegiance was led by fifth and sixth grade students. Superintendent Chiafery said she would like the Board to come back again when there is more time for a tour of the schools and lunch with students. Chris Ortega, Chairman of the Merrimack School Board, also welcomed the Board to the Merrimack School District. Superintendent Chiafery said that the James Mastricola Elementary School was named 2012 School of the Year. The Upper Elementary School is celebrating its 10th Year of existence. Superintendent Chiafery introduced Emilie Carter, Principal, William Morris, Assistant Principal, Marsha McGill, Principal, and Jay Gratton, Assistant Principal. Two students, Camille Tremblay, and John Hilliard, spoke about how the schools came to be named James Mastricola. The Principals gave an overview power point presentation on the elementary schools. The Merrimack School District is comprised of six schools with an enrollment of about 3,954 students. Brian Moore, Music Teacher, led the chorus in singing "Green Green Ghosts." Both schools have a partnership with Southern New Hampshire University that provides Merrimack educators with graduate courses on campus and SNHU interns with interaction with classroom teachers who are utilizing best instructional practices.

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:45 a.m. at the James Mastricola Upper Elementary School in Merrimack, NH. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Gary W. Groleau, Helen G. Honorow, Gregory Odell, Emma Rous, and James C. Schubert. Also in attendance was Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, was unable to be present.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cindy Chagnon led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Dunham spoke of her concerns regarding discrimination against disabled children. Doris Hohensee spoke of her concerns regarding the common core, NCLB waiver, regional liaisons, the state/district roles, and the Division of Instruction on the Department's website. Steven Joy spoke to the common core and wanted to be sure that the writing standards included poetry. Laura Alezom spoke regarding the common core.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Update on Charter Schools – Chairman Raffio said there is no real update at this time. The Board has approved four new schools and an enrollment increase. At the October 31 Board Retreat Board members will discuss the vision for future charter schools.

B. Update on NH Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Waiver – Heather Gage said Department staff have been meeting with school districts on priority and focus schools. These plans are for Title I schools only. They are helping districts if the Department is invited but do not go into school districts without being invited. Scott Mantie has been holding public forums on the smarter balanced test being developed. The Teacher Effective and Principal Effective models are being followed up with schools. Local government will structure these models.

C. Update on Manchester School District – Paul Leather reported that the Department is working very closely with the Superintendent and staff at the Manchester School District. The district plan is now a first draft and we will be receiving this shortly. There is still concern regarding class size as several classes exceed class size. Mr. Leather said that Joey Nichol, our turnaround specialist, is working very closely with Manchester. Ms. Honorow again asked for the actual numbers for class sizes in Manchester. Mr. Leather said he has asked for data sheets from each school and will be sending this report on class size to Board members. There was concern expressed that the Manchester School Board has voted down the common core standards but Mr. Leather said that the new standards they will be preparing will be based on the Common Core, and are supposed to exceed those standards.

D. Update on Unity – Judy Fillion, Jeff Blaney, Shawn Randall, Chairman of the Unity School Board, Prudence McCormick, Vice Chair, and Ron Anstey from the State Fire Marshall's Office, were present, Mr. Blaney reported that the architect still has not submitted the plan to the Department and State Fire Marshall's Office. It looks like the Unity children will be at the Claremont schools for the entire 2013-14 school year. Since the final completion date of the new Unity School is unknown at this time, there is the possibility that it may not be ready for the 2014-15 school year. The Superintendent is working on a plan should the new Unity School not be ready. Mr. Randall spoke to the situation in Unity. Mr. Anstey said his office has not received the submittal from the architect. He would like this information in one plan and not by piece meal. Chairman Raffio said that he wants a representative from Unity to be at each of the monthly Board meetings until the new school is open or until Claremont becomes the official permanent long term solution.

E. Board Retreat –Chairman Raffio went over the Agenda for the Board Retreat scheduled for October 31st at Two Delta Dental.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Discussion on Minimum Standards – Paul Leather, Mary Mayo, and Keith Burke, met with the Board. As a result of the October 17, 2013 meeting the Ed 306 Review Committee has suggested recommendations to the draft of a final proposal, Ed 306, Minimum Standards for Public School Approval in the "working document." The changes to the text of the initial proposal are identified by bold italics for new text and strikethrough for text to be deleted.

B. Public Rulemaking Hearing – Ed 1200, Ed 1113.04-06, Ed 1114.07-09, Ed 1120.04, and Ed 1120.08 - Chairman Raffio opened the hearing at 11:00 a.m. Ed 1200, Limiting the Use of Child Restraint Practices are being proposed because of a new law, RSA 126-U that was passed in 2010. The Department has met with constituents over the last year to develop the language. Also included in this filing is an amendment to sections of Ed 1100 to bring it in line with this law. The federal rule, 34 CFR&300.154(d) regarding Parental Consent has also recently changed. The two sections of Ed 1120 proposed language are being changed to make it consistent with this rule. If the Board adopts the initial proposal, the Department will enter the rulemaking process by filing it with the JLCAR, along with a request for a fiscal impact statement. The following people testified at this hearing: Bonnie Dunham, Michael Skibbie, David Villiotti, and Maureen Tracey. Chairman Raffio closed the hearing at 12:00 noon.

C. Continuation of Discussion on Minimum Standards – Deputy Commissioner Leather, Mary Mayo, and Keith Burke, continued the discussion on Minimum Standards with Board members. Mr. Leather discussed some of the recommendations that the working group had suggested. Board members had several questions and concerns regarding the Standards. A list of the implementation dates for several sections of the Standards was also given to Board members. Also, a list of Issues Raised During Testimony But Not Included in the Recommendations was also given to Board members. These Standards will be discussed at the Board Retreat scheduled for October 31st.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no New Department Business

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Initial Proposals

1. Ed 315, Home Education Programs – A vote is needed by the Board to enter the rulemaking process to adopt the Initial Proposal for Ed 315, Home Education Programs. These rules were submitted to the Board on February 20, 2013, as a result of a petition from the Home Education Advisory Council to amend the existing rules because RSA 193-A was amended in 2012 by House bill 545 and House Bill 1571. The Board adopted the HEAC recommendation, and directed the Department to prepare an initial proposal. If the Board adopts the initial proposal, the Department will enter the rulemaking process by filing it with the JLCAR, along with a request for a fiscal impact statement. The Board will hold a public hearing at its December meeting. This information will be published in the Rulemaking Register next month.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education adopt the Initial Proposal for Ed 315, Home Education Programs and the Board will hold a public hearing on this filing on December 19, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

2. Ed 401-503, Certification Information, Ed 507.11 and Ed 612.04, Elementary Education – A vote is needed by the Board to enter the rulemaking process to adopt the Initial Proposal for Ed 501-503, Certification Information, Ed 507.11 and Ed 612.04, Elementary Education. The certification information in Ed 501-503 rules expired October 26, 2012, and are being readopted. The Elementary Education Certification and Teacher Preparation program rules have been reviewed by the Professional Standards Board because they are due to expire next year. The PSB have updated these rules and ask the Board to enter rulemaking. If the Board adopts the initial proposal, the Department will enter the rulemaking process by filing it with the JLCAR, along with a request for a fiscal impact statement. The Board will hold a public hearing at its December meeting. This information will be published in the Rulemaking Register next month.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education adopt the Initial Proposal for Ed 501-503, Certification Information, Ed 507.11 and Ed 612.04, Elementary Education and the Board will hold a public hearing on this filing on December 19, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS

A. Priorities of State Board – Chairman Raffio said the Board Retreat is scheduled for October 31st at Two Delta Dental.

Chairman Raffio said that on Tuesday, October 29 at the LOB in Rooms 210/211 there is a Forum scheduled by the House Education Committee for legislators to discuss the Common Core State Standards and the NH Career and College Ready Standards.

Chairman Raffio said that Gary Groleau and Emma Rous had visited Enterprise City. The Enterprise City middle and high school programs combine a dynamic integrated curriculum, with a hands-on culminating experience. Students run their city once they have completed the mostly math, reading, writing and social studies based preparation curriculum. These lessons are taught in the classroom by teachers. The Enterprise City curriculum is an Integrated Curriculum, closely aligned with the Common Core, and every state's standards.

Cindy Chagnon said that she and others on the NH Teacher of the Year Committee had visited Pinkerton Academy where Joey Lee is a teacher. Mr. Lee is the NH Teacher of the Year for 2014.

Chairman Raffio mentioned that there is an Extended Learning Opportunity conference on Friday, October 25 at SNHU and David Ruff will be attending.

Chairman Raffio said that November 13 is Education Day at the Monarchs

- B. Education Reform – This item was not discussed.

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Paul Leather said that the Governor's Office has submitted and received a grant to the National Governor's Association on college and career standards. There is a meeting scheduled for November 18 and 19 in Los Angeles with the National Governor's Association.

Mr. Leather said the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) study show that New Hampshire's students are among top performers in the nation and worldwide in math and science.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of September 26, 2013

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, to approve the Minutes of September 26, 2013.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Goshen Lempster Cooperative School District – Amendment to Articles of Agreement – The Goshen Lempster Cooperative School District voted at its annual school district meeting on March 9, 2013 to amend Article five of the Articles of Agreement to change the apportionment formula for calculating the operating and capital expenses of the school district. Article eight of the Articles of Agreement requires a 60% majority vote in order to amend any of the articles in the agreement. The apportionment amendment received 193 votes; 126 were in favor of adopting the amendment and 67 were opposed. The article required a minimum of 116 votes in order to meet the 60% requirement. Issuance of the certificate by the State Board of Education will provide the district with conclusive evidence of lawful amendment of the apportionment formula in the Goshen Lempster Cooperative School District Articles of Agreement.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education, having found that the amendment to the Articles of Agreement were properly adopted, now issue its certificate to the Goshen Lempster Cooperative School District.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Tuition Contract Between Hooksett School District and Manchester School District – This item was tabled until the December 19, 2013 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. TABLED ITEMS

A. Student/Con-Val School Board – SB-FY-13-04-008

AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Virginia M. Barry

Secretary